



Leave birds out of events

What do you think of people who release birds, such as doves, to commemorate an event?

I think the release of any animal to mark some event, such as the release of white doves a week or so ago for the singer whose plane crashed is a stupid ignorant practice. Those white doves are not native to the area and will probably die a slow death. I remember watching the New Year's celebrations concerning the new millennium in other countries when birds were released amid fireworks and noisemakers. A very bad case indeed when some people think of birds as expendable party items. During the Rose Parade, live white doves were released off of a float. Tame captive raised animals once again released into an area where they won't survive. I'll never be convinced that we are the most intelligent species on this planet. Far from it.

And butterflies...

On a similar note, the release of butterflies raised from mail order kits is another ignorant thing to do. The Painted Lady butterfly has been at the center

of these releases. From a business standpoint, these kits are sold to make money. As a naturalist and one who enjoys butterflies, I find it appalling. True enough, the Painted Lady is the same butterfly worldwide as a species. These kits that provide the larvae and instructions on how to raise them come from companies out West. Releasing these butterflies into populations in Michigan and elsewhere can bring in diseases such as fungus and virus varieties from the state shipped from and can harm our own native butterflies.

I would ask that if you are a teacher or other educator that you do not purchase these butterfly kits or those of a similar nature. It might look like a good idea but it is not the right idea. As I get older, I continue to become more and more upset with the way that we treat what's left of the natural world around us. Maybe we'll wake up someday and realize the value that nature provides to our daily lives. Releasing balloons into the atmosphere is another stupid thing that people like to do. How dumb!

Joe Derek is the city naturalist for Farmington Hills. Leave him a voice mail message at (248) 473-9574

Cyclist raises funds for group

Farmington resident Kurt David will bicycle to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Association on Saturday, Oct. 6.

David will bike 40 miles from Harrison Township back to Farmington on his 40th birthday in honor of his father, Karl T.

David, who is one of the over 70,000 people in Michigan with Alzheimer's disease. All proceeds will go directly to the Alzheimer's Association, Detroit area chapter.

To make a donation, contact David at (248) 473-7818.

WEDDINGS & ENGAGEMENTS



KOLACKI-BELL
Della Kolacki of Farmington

Hills and Ed Kolacki of Farmington announce the engagement of their daughter Julie Therese to Mark Franklin Bell, son of James and Doreen Bell of Northport.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Farmington High School and Western Michigan University. She is employed as a human resource generalist with DaimlerChrysler.

Her fiancé is also a graduate of Western Michigan University. He is a police officer with the City of Huntington Woods.

An October wedding is planned at Sacred Heart Chapel at Marygrove College.

WASEN-SCHAEFER

Martha Schaefer and Craig Wasen were married June 16, 2001 at First Presbyterian Church in Muskegon.

The bride is the daughter of Bill and Peggy Schaefer of Muskegon and a graduate of Alma College. She is employed at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia.

The groom is the son of Jerry and Kathy Wasen of Farmington and also a graduate of Alma College. He is employed at Bank One.

The newlyweds honeymooned in St. Thomas and make their



home in Livonia.

Youth pastor broadcast set

The William Tyndale College Department of Youth Studies will sponsor a youth specialties satellite broadcast training program for current youth pastors and those interested in youth ministry.

It will be held Saturday, Sept. 15, on Tyndale's main campus, 35700 W. 12 Mile, west of Drake in Farmington Hills.

Cost and registration information is available by calling Jenni Knowles at (800) 483-0707, Ext. 529.

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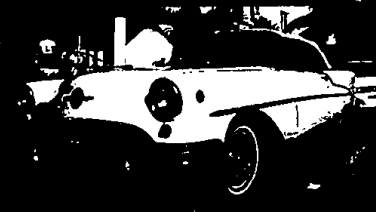
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